

PROPER RECORDS WILL AID FARMERS

Both Happenings and Money Affairs Should Be Carefully Kept During Year.

SIMPLE SYSTEM IS FAVORED

Accurately Kept Accounts and Intelligent Use of Great Assistance in Showing Where Money Can Be Made.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

In order to know what progress is being made in farm operations and to determine what crops or branches of farming are producing the greatest profits, it is necessary for the farmer to keep a system of accounts, say specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture. The practice will not of itself turn a poor farmer into a rich one, a poor farmer into a good one, or a poor farmer into a better understanding and insight into the farming business.

The keeping of accounts need not take a great amount of time nor is it necessary to have an elaborate system.

Two kinds of accounts are kept. Farm records may be roughly divided into two kinds—records of happenings and records of money transactions. The former are known as memory files. Among the happenings that should be recorded are the dates when animals are bred, when milked or discharged, accidents, crop pasture season begins and ends, first and last frosts occur, incubators are set, spring work begins and ends, seed time and harvest occur, etc. Such notes as these, when systematically recorded and constantly referred to, are of much value.

The most important use many farmers make of the records of cash received and paid is as a means of checking up bills when sent in to see whether all payments have been duly credited. While this is only a small part of the value which can be derived from such records, it will frequently justify the time required to keep them.

When the year's record is made the cash account can be assembled under headings that will show exactly what each branch of the farm activities returned in cash and what each required to keep it going. Some farmers are apt to judge the importance of the

various farm projects by the time required to put them through. To such, a complete cash record for a year, properly assembled, will be an eye opener. Often seemingly unimportant things, such as the stock of poultry in the orchard, produce nearly as much net cash as the obviously important.

At some regular time each year—usually about the first of the calendar year—a farm inventory should be made. In any system of accounting the inventory is absolutely essential, as upon it is based the division of one year's business from another. The inventory is simply a list of farm property and farm debts, and corresponds to the "stock taking" which every merchant does periodically.

An Aid to Credit. Taken alone, the inventory will show a farmer the exact net value of his property, and an aid in securing credit and loans from the bank in time of need. The inventories of two dates, a year apart, show whether progress or retrogression has occurred during the year and definitely measure the degree of change.

Taken in conjunction with a cash account for the year, the inventory shows how much has been made by farming and to what extent the personal and household expenses have offset profits. It also gives a much better insight into the net income produced by each farm department, as a decrease in inventory value of logs, for instance, may offset to some extent what, from the cash account, looks like a very large income from that source.

PREPARE GARDEN SOIL EARLY

"Planting Over" May Be Necessary Sometimes, but Labor Is Always Well Rewarded.

An early beginning in preparing the land and planting gardens is of much importance. Regardless of the seasons, it is well to get an early start. That "planting over" may sometimes be necessary cannot be denied. But little is lost when garden land must be planted over, for the labor necessary to prepare the land is always well-employed. Much is lost if early maturing vegetables are planted too late. Get your garden land ready and plant on time.

Keep Young Bull Growing.

The main thing in caring for the young bull is to make certain that he is kept in a growing condition at all times and not allowed to become stunted.

Big Posts Are Best.

It is no economy to split fence posts too small. They rot out much more quickly than larger ones. No post should be used if less than four or five inches through where it goes in to the ground.

Good Rations for Hens.

"A bucketful of food on one hand and an equal amount of common sense in the other." These constitute a good ration for hens, according to an exchange.

EXERCISE FOR SOWS OF BIG IMPORTANCE

Necessary to Use Good Judgment in Management.

Corn Alone Is Very Poor Feed for Pregnant Animals Because It Lacks in Essential Protein and Mineral Matter.

E. F. Ferrin, in charge of swine production at University Farm, St. Paul, Minn., believes that good judgment in the care and handling of brood sows during the winter is as necessary as good feed in making a success with the pig crop.

"The cheapest grain for brood sows," he says, "is corn, but this feed alone is a very poor one for pregnant sows or gilts. Corn lacks in protein and mineral matter, each of which is essential if strong pigs are to be produced. Oats will supplement corn fairly well, and a ration of two-thirds corn and one-third oats is reasonably good. One of the best feeds to be used with corn is meat meal or tankage, the proportion of one part to nine or ten parts of corn. Alfalfa or clover hay is an

excellent addition to the grain ration, and will reduce the cost of the winter's feed used.

"Amounts of feed to be given can well be governed by the gains made by the sows. Yearling, or older sows, need not gain more than a half pound daily during pregnancy, unless they are very thin in the fall. Gilts have to increase more in weight than mature sows; from one-half to three-fourths of a pound is a reasonable amount.

"Exercise is one of the important factors in producing strong pigs. When the sows are not doing it is a good plan to feed ear corn some distance from the house or shed so that the sows will have to exercise to get their feed. It is probable that exercise is a big factor in avoiding hairless pigs."

PROPER SIZE OF CONTAINERS

Disatisfaction Caused by Use of Receptacles Not Sufficiently Strong Enough.

Much dissatisfaction with direct marketing has been caused by using containers that were not sufficiently strong. That is especially true when containers are used more than once, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Shipping containers should be light in weight but sufficiently durable to carry the produce safely.

The proper size of a container depends upon the desires of the customer. The most common size is a small quantity of each product at a time. Containers should be just large enough to hold the produce shipped. The carton is too large or too small, both the produce and the container are likely to be damaged, for the produce will not be kept in place, and the container will be crushed.

The larger the quantity of produce shipped the more the container will be the cost per pound for transportation, and the lower the container cost per pound.

COMFORT OF COW ESSENTIAL

Stall Should Be Supplied With Ample Bedding, and Exercise Are Necessary.

The stall in which the cow is kept ought to be supplied with good bedding which when soiled should be removed and a fresh supply added. When the weather will permit the cow should be allowed to remain outside of the barn and not be confined all the time during the few weeks she is resting from milk secretion. Sunshine, fresh air and exercise are quite necessary to the well being of any mother during the period of gestation and the dairy cow is no exception.

BE CAREFUL WITH LANTERNS

Little Flickering Flame Has Its Power to Destroy Anything of Inflammable Character.

These are the days of lanterns in the barn night and morning. It is well to remember that this little flickering flame has in it the power to destroy your home and all you have brought together in a lifetime. So never set it down in the barn, but hang it up securely. A wire running the length of the barn with a common harness snap on it, makes a safe holder. Better still, is an electric light system!

RULES TO PREVENT CHOLERA

Hog Raisers Who Do Not Vaccinate Must Observe Some Plan to Keep Disease Away.

Many small-scale hog raisers and a few who raise hogs on a large scale do not vaccinate. A few general rules must be observed by such stock raisers, or cholera will get into their herd.

Clean and Smooth Plumes.

The plumage of poultry should be clean and smooth, as a lack of condition often accompanies soiled, roughened plumes.

Care for Woodcock.

A woodcock needs extra attention, especially in cutting out the more undesirable trees and the pests, such as grape vines.

Although the English sparrow has many beneficial habits it is considered a pest by competent authorities.

Tones of Rust Turn to Brown

Color, always an important factor in fashions, is claiming more than usual attention this season. This is practically the first time, notes a Paris fashion correspondent, that the Paris dressmaker has had an opportunity to launch absolutely pastel colors. During the years that have succeeded the signing of the armistice it has been largely a question of using up stocks of both manufactured goods and raw materials. But throughout the seasons which have intervened the French manufacturer has had time to readjust himself to a new regime, so that what is being shown this winter as novelty is actually new. Hence the new colors appearing for 1921 are worthy of more than passing mention.

Strong, well determined and definite describe the tones shown on the color cards for next spring. The choice of the Paris dressmaker and milliner is equally well shown in the color cards for winter novelty, and it is anticipated that its favor will be increased in the spring. In the new red series rust shades still are immensely popular.

Rust Color Leads Into Brown.

These rust tones gradually lead to brown, a color in high favor this season in a very large assortment of tones, running from the deepest so-called black browns into high shades that touch on russet and gold.

There is no reason why red and brown ever should have been considered as belonging to the autumn and winter. They are infinitely more suitable to wear in the springtime. When the little green buds are shooting forth on the trees and nature everywhere is putting on new dresses we feel that we must be in keeping with our surroundings by being clothed in fresh new rainment, and no color adapts itself so readily and so cheerfully to the new season as red and brown. Nor does it ever show up to greater advantage than in such a setting as this. Red shades enter into practically all the shades seen in nature. Later in the summer, when the streets are hot and dusty and the leaves parched and brown, red and brown are the colors of the season.

Green is another claimant for fashion's favor and a big future is prophesied for it. Green is the color of the new season, and it is in combination with metal, is very popular for evening headquarters.

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IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

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LESSON FOR FEBRUARY 6

THE MARRIAGE FEAST. (May Be Used With Missionary Applications.)

LESSON TEXT—Matt. 22:1-14.

REPERCUSSIVE MATERIAL—Isa. 55:1-11; Matt. 11:28-30; Luke 14:28-33; Rev. 22:17.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Story of a Wedding Party.

TOPIC—An Invitation to a Wedding.

INTERMEDIATE AND BIBLE TOPIC—Accepting and Extending the Great Invitation.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—The Great Invitation.

In the previous parable the responsibilities of the subjects of the kingdom were before us for consideration in the light of the obligation to render to the household of God the fruits of his vineyard. In this one the ethic is changed, and the privileges and blessings of the kingdom are placed on exhibition. This parable lifts the conception of the kingdom and places it on a high plane. It is much more than paying rent to a king; it is feasting at the King's table on fat things which He has prepared with great expense to Himself. Let every teacher strive to show that Christ's kingdom is infinitely more than a system of laws and regulations to be obeyed. It is a life of joy and blessing, and blessings even as infinite love provides for dear children. The figure of marriage is most suggestive; it represents the highest ideal of love and friendship.

I. The King's Feast Decried (vv. 1-17).

The previous parable exhibited the attitude of the Jewish people toward the king up to the crucifixion of Christ. He was a peasant, a carpenter, a man of the cross, even through the present age of the Gentiles. The marriage feast which the king made for his sons and daughters was a feast of love and blessing. His invitation again and again most graciously offered to give joy and blessing to certain of His creatures. This feast has been made in honor of his Son and is an exceedingly rich one. His ocean and fountains are ready to furnish the feast. He shows God's earnestness in seeking to bless men. God does more than simply invite men to eat; He presses them to the feast. He is not content with merely inviting them; He presses them to the feast. He is not content with merely inviting them; He presses them to the feast.

NEW YORK—Wheat—Spot easier; No. 2 red nominal and No. 2 hard, \$1.88; No. 1 f. track, New York, Jan. 19, \$1.87; No. 2 mixed durum, \$1.87; No. 1 f. to arrive.

Corn—Spot easier; No. 2 yellow, \$1.45; No. 2 mixed, \$1.44; No. 1 f. New York, 10-day shipment.

Oats—Spot easier; No. 1 white, \$1.55; No. 2, \$1.54.

Butter—Creamery, Western, extra, 52¢; 50¢; 48¢; 46¢; 44¢; 42¢; 40¢; 38¢; 36¢; 34¢; 32¢; 30¢; 28¢; 26¢; 24¢; 22¢; 20¢; 18¢; 16¢; 14¢; 12¢; 10¢; 8¢; 6¢; 4¢; 2¢; 1¢; 1/2¢; 1/4¢; 1/8¢; 1/16¢; 1/32¢; 1/64¢; 1/128¢; 1/256¢; 1/512¢; 1/1024¢; 1/2048¢; 1/4096¢; 1/8192¢; 1/16384¢; 1/32768¢; 1/65536¢; 1/131072¢; 1/262144¢; 1/524288¢; 1/1048576¢; 1/2097152¢; 1/4194304¢; 1/8388608¢; 1/16777216¢; 1/33554432¢; 1/67108864¢; 1/134217728¢; 1/268435456¢; 1/536870912¢; 1/1073741824¢; 1/2147483648¢; 1/4294967296¢; 1/8589934592¢; 1/17179869184¢; 1/34359738368¢; 1/68719476736¢; 1/137438953472¢; 1/274877906944¢; 1/549755813888¢; 1/1099511627776¢; 1/2199023255552¢; 1/4398046511104¢; 1/8796093022208¢; 1/17592186044416¢; 1/35184372088832¢; 1/70368744177664¢; 1/140737488355328¢; 1/281474976710656¢; 1/562949953421312¢; 1/1125899906842624¢; 1/2251799813685248¢; 1/4503599627370496¢; 1/9007199254740992¢; 1/18014398509481984¢; 1/36028797018963968¢; 1/72057594037927936¢; 1/144115188075855872¢; 1/288230376151711744¢; 1/576460752303423488¢; 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